

**EMBRYO TRANSFER TEAM CHECKLIST FOR EXPORT OF
EMBRYOS
TO MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

NAME _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

1. TEAM VETERINARIAN:

_____ a. Must be licensed in the State in which the Embryo Transfer Business is located and certified by the American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA) or equivalent

_____ b. Must be accredited in each State in which he/she issues the health certificate.

_____ c. Must meet other requirements imposed by State licensing authorities or State Veterinary medical associations.

Lic # _____ AETA# _____ Accred# _____

_____ d. Must collect, process, and store embryos, or be responsible for the technicians who do so.

_____ e. Must insure that technical staff are trained and competent in methods and techniques of hygiene as they relate to embryo transfer.

_____ f. Agrees to onsite inspections by APHIS of facilities and non-financial records. Inspections must be conducted twice a year, or as directed.

_____ g. Must certify that the donor has resided in a herd(s) for the previous 6 months. (The EU allows a maximum of two herds in the previous 6 months).

2. EMBRYO TRANSFER CENTER FACILITIES

Permanent facility must have:

_____ a. A room physically separated from the donor handling area for the examination, processing, and freezing of embryos.

_____ b. A room or area physically separated from embryo processing room for cleaning and sterilizing instruments and equipment used in embryo collection and processing.

- _____ c. A lockable room for storage of frozen embryos.

3. MOBILE FACILITY

- _____ a. Must have a section for examination and processing of embryos.
- _____ b. Must have a separate section to accommodate equipment and materials used in contact with donor animals.
- _____ c. Must have access to or contact with a permanent facility.

4. DONOR HANDLING AREA

- _____ In all cases, collection of embryos must be done in separate facilities capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

5. LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH PERMANENT AND MOBILE FACILITIES

- _____ a. Must have impervious work surfaces.
- _____ b. Must have a microscope capable of 50 x magnification.
- _____ c. Must have cryogenic equipment.
- _____ d. Floors and walls must be in good repair and of such construction and finish to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

6. STORAGE

Each embryo collection team shall ensure that the embryos are stored at suitable temperatures in premises approved for the purpose by USDA. In order to maintain approval, these premises must:

- _____ a. Include at least one lockable room intended exclusively for embryo storage.
- _____ b. Be easily cleaned and disinfected.

7. PROCEDURES

Sanitary integrity of embryos is maintained by:

- _____ a. Collection and processing of the embryos by the approved team without coming into contact with embryos for other consignment/purposes.

- _____ b. Utilizing disposable or sterilized reusable equipment for all procedures involving embryo or donor contact.
- _____ c. Assuring that all products of animal origin used on flushing, washing, transporting and freezing are obtained from sources presenting no animal health risk or are so treated prior to use as to prevent such risk.
- _____ d. Using only cryogenic agents not previously in contact with animal products.
- _____ e. Taking care to prevent unnecessary access to laboratory area by personnel.
- _____ f. Washing embryos in groups of 10 or fewer by transferring them through ten changes of medium. Each of the ten washes must be of 100 fold dilution of the previous wash, and a fresh sterile micropipette must be used to transfer the embryos to each of the washes. Only embryos from the same donor may be washed together.
- _____ g. If embryos are to be trypsin-treated, then the following washing/trypsin procedure is to be utilized in lieu of (f) above: embryos are to be transferred through five (5) washes containing bovine serum albumin instead of serum, then through two (2) washes of 0.25% trypsin, ph 7.6-7.8, for a total time in the trypsin of 60-90 seconds, and finally through five (%) washes that contain serum instead of bovine serum albumin. Each of the washes must be 100 fold dilution of the previous one, and a fresh sterile micropipette must be used for each of the transfers. Only embryos from the same donor are to be washed and treated together.
- _____ h. After washing, each embryo is examined microscopically at 50 x magnification. Only those with an intact zona pellucida, free of adherent material, are to be frozen.
- _____ i. Labeling of all frozen embryos is consistent with International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) standards.
- _____ j. Each straw must be frozen as soon as possible, and the consignment placed in a new or sterilized tank and stored in a lockable room under the control of the Team Veterinarian and available for regular inspection by an official veterinarian.
- _____ k. Samples of flushing fluid (minimum of 5 ml from each collection), washing fluids (last 3 washes), degenerating embryos, and unfertilized ova which have been washed must be labeled and retained for official examination for bacterial and vial contamination.

8. IDENTIFICATION OF EMBRYOS IS ASSURED BY THE FOLLOWING RECORD KEEPING PROCEDURES:

- _____ a. Recordkeeping of the time of collection, breed, age, registration number, and name of the donor dam.
- _____ b. At breeding time, recording the name, breed, registration number, and semen code collection date of the donor sire
- _____ c. Labeling all straws, goblets and canes according to IETS standards.
- _____ d. Recording the number, evaluation and disposition of the embryos collected at each flush.
- _____ e. Maintaining an inventory of embryos collected and records of all incoming and outgoing movements of embryos with their destination/location until twelve (12) months after disposition of the embryos.
- _____ f. Recording the identifying codes for the samples referred to in point 7 above.
- _____ g. Embryos must be stored on a premises comprised of at least one lockable room intended exclusively for embryo storage.
- _____ h. Record of USDA seals used for embryo transport is maintained.

NOTE:

When embryos are collected on the farm without a mobile facility, processing of embryos must be done in a separate room which has impervious surfaces capable of disinfection. This room must have a lockable cabinet to store a liquid nitrogen tank. This tank shall be transferred under USDA seal to a permanent facility when the collection period is over. This type of facility can be approved on a permanent basis or for a specific collection period. Under certain circumstances, a room that is being used as the family kitchen may be approved for such purpose.